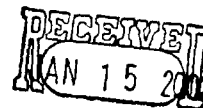


Date: 10-30-01

SFUND -2001-0609-0160

Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA Docket Office
(Mail Code 5201G)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460



Re: Dead Creek--Sauget, Cahokia and East St. Louis, Illinois, NPL Listing

I strongly support the listing of Areas 1 and 2 in Sauget, Cahokia and East St. Louis, Illinois, on the National Priorities List for cleanup under the federal Superfund program. The companies and parties responsible for the contamination should pay for the removal and cleanup.

Because of the sites' location next to the Mississippi River, I also urge EPA to remove all of the toxic and hazardous substances from out of the floodplain to a landfill permitted for hazardous waste. I believe leaving the waste on site has the potential for disaster in future flooding and rising groundwater levels. It would also be a violation of Executive Order 12866 on environmental justice.

If allowed to remain, the hazardous waste could further contaminate the river, which is the source of drinking water for many and is already listed by EPA as impaired. It could pollute and poison fish, which is a major food supply for many low-income families as well as recreational fishermen. It will harm endangered and threatened species in the area and will further contaminate groundwater. In addition, leaving the waste on site would contribute to the degradation of the communities located in the floodplain.

If you do not move immediately to listing, I request an extension of time to file additional public comment because of the timing of the announcement in the Federal Register--September 13, two days after the World Trade Center bombing, and the lack of general public notice to the communities involved.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Signature

Reguel Thomas

Print Name

Reguel Thomas

Address

1280 N 40th St E. ST Louis
IL 62204

Please mail by Nov. 13. If questions, call American Bottom Conservancy, 271-9605, Ext. 103.